Everyone’s Talking about Nimai

by Laksmimoni dasi

Narrator: We offer our respectful obeisances unto Sri Caitanya and Sri Nitynanda Who are like the sun and moon. They have arisen simultaneously on the horizon of Gaudia to dissipate the darkness of ignorance and thus wonderfully bestow benediction upon all. May Sri Krsna Caitanya, Who is the combined form of the melted hearts of Sri Sri Radha and Krsna appear to us in this narration of His divine lila.

1 st Devotee: Saci Mata, are you all right? You seem so far away!

Sacimata: I was just thinking about Nimai

1 st Devotee: Of course.

2 nd Devotee: How silly of us to ask.

Sacimata: And when He first appeared in our home

1 st Devotee: Ahhh ! Do you know it was the very day that the drought ended in our village?

2 nd Devotee: Even the air was fragrant - as if the sweetest perfume was in the air!

3 rd Devotee: Don't forget the lunar eclipse that day - it was the first one I've ever seen!

2 nd Devotee: I loved being in the Ganges River at night, chanting together with so many people!

3 rd Devotee: And the stars! The sky looked like it was made of diamonds!

2 nd Devotee: All you could hear was the chanting of

Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare
Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare!

The Holy Names filled the sky like thunder!!

Sacimata: I'm going to tell you all a great secret.

3 rd Devotee: A secret!?

2 nd Devotee: What is it?

Sacimata: Jagannath Misra had a vision before Nimai was born.

3 rd Devotee: What kind of vision?

Sacimata: He said that he saw the Lord and His abode enter and that Lord Ananta Himself was singing praises of my son.

2 nd Devotee: Could such a thing be possible?

1 st Devotee: I remember how you looked when you were carrying Nimai. You were so effulgent!

2 nd Devotee: It's true - you looked just like the Goddess of Fortune!

3r2 nd Devotee: And Nimai is no ordinary child. Nilambara Cakravarti said so.

Sacimata: That's why he named Him Visvambhara - he said it means "One Who maintains the universes." I wonder who Nimai really is?

2 nd Devotee: There is an old prophecy that says a great king will be born one day to a humble Brahmana family in Nadia.

3 rd Devotee: Do you think Nimai could be that king?

Sacimata: Well, perhaps Nimai is a powerful demigod.

1s1 st Devotee: How I would love to have a son Who is so beautiful! I have never seen such large eyes; they are just like lotus petals!

2 nd Devotee: And His nose is so sweet, like a sesame flower.

3 rd Devotee: And His lashes, so thick and black; He doesn't even need kajal.

1 st Devotee: Of course He does, the ghee and camphor help to protect His precious eyes, besides making them very beautiful.

2 nd Devotee: I think Nimai's eyes look like bumblebees.

3 rd Devotee: And we're the flowers.

2 nd Devotee: I'm a flower; you're a weed.

3r2 nd Devotee: I am not a weed. Anyway, did you see how Nimai grabbed my finger, yesterday? He's so strong, just like a little lion cub!

1 st Devotee: We never did get to see the lovely presents that Sita Rani gave you. We heard she was very generous.

Sacimata: Oh yes, she was, and do you remember how happy Advaita Acharya seemed? They say He was dancing like a mad man!

1 st Devotee: It's true, He couldn't take His eyes off Nimai.

2 nd Devotee: Nobody could, nobody can, your son has bewitched us, Saci.

Sacimata: Yes, He is an enchanter.

1s1 st Devotee: He certainly has captured my heart!

2 nd Devotee: And mine!

3 rd Devotee: And mine!

Sacimata: And mine!

1s1 st Devotee: You'll have to be careful when He grows up.

Sacimata: That's not something I want to think about right now. Come on, I'll show you Sita Rani's gifts.
(She brings the gifts out.)

1 st Devotee: Oooh, what a pretty jacket. Look at this intricate embroidery work!

2 nd Devotee: Such fine cloth!

3 rd Devotee: He's growing so fast, He'll be wearing it before you know it.

1 st Devotee: Oh, and these saris, too?

Sacimata: Yes.

1 st Devotee: This silk is excellent! What rich colors! I've never known her to be so generous.

2 nd Devotee: Neither have I, although she's always kind.

Sacimata: Everyone was generous. I still can't believe all the wonderful gifts. She gave Him
these golden bangles, too and these silver coins. To tell you the truth, I don't really know where all
these gifts come from. I remember seeing many beautiful and richly dressed people who I didn't
recognize.

1 st Devotee: I wonder who they were.

Sacimata: My husband heard that some people have said that the demigods were there in disguise when Nimai was born.

[1s]1 st Devotee: Do you think that's true, Saci devi?

Sacimata: I've never told anyone this, but one day I heard footsteps in my house. I thought they
were soldiers; I was so frightened. Suddenly, I saw celestial beings, dressed in exquisite clothes
with sparkling jewels and milk white pearls. They took Nimai and put Him on a throne made of
precious gems and began to worship Him.

2 nd Devotee: Our Nimai was worshipped by the demigods!?

3 rd Devotee: Maybe it was just a dream.

2 nd Devotee: Hush! What did you do?

Sacimata: I was so scared, I just grabbed Him and ran into Jagannatha Misra's room.

2 nd Devotee: And then what?

Sacimata: And then, they just went away. I also thought that perhaps I was dreaming.

1 st Devotee: Lord Krsna has given you a special child because you've suffered so much since
your eight little girls died as babies.

Sacimata: Nrsimha! Nrsimha! You shouldn't even talk about such things.

1 st Devotee: Don't be silly. The neem tree will protect our Nimai! He's special; nothing can hurt Him!

Sacimata: Maybe. I'll just tiptoe into His room and see if He's alright ...

2 nd Devotee: Oh please, may I come, too?

3 rd Devotee: And, I have to leave soon and I couldn't bear not seeing Him before I go!

Sacimata: You were just here this morning!

2 nd Devotee: That was almost four hours ago!

Sacimata: Allright, come on.
(All four approach Nimai's cradle.)

Sacimata: Have you noticed how Nimai's eyebrows dance when He laughs?

2 nd Devotee: Yes.

3 rd Devotee: He has a face like the full moon!

Sacimata: Hmmmmmm. That's true!

1 st Devotee: I've thought that many times! When He looks at me, I feel so calm and happy, just like I'm bathing in moonlight.

2 nd Devotee: Nimai is better than moonlight because He shines during the day, too!

Sacimata: Oh! He's awake!

3 rd Devotee: And crying!

2 nd Devotee: Oh, good! Now He can see all of us before we go.

Sacimata: Hush, Nimai. Did we frighten you? Hush, my Angel.

1 st Devotee: (from far side) Saci, what has happened here? Look, there is ghee and milk all over the floor!

2 nd Devotee: Be careful or you'll slip!

Sacimata: (looking) Oh, my Krsna!

[2n]2 nd Devotee: Look at these smashed pots! Was there a thief in the house, do you think?

Sacimata: I didn't see anyone.

1 st Devotee: Neither did I.

2 nd Devotee: Who could have done this?

3 rd Devotee: Maybe it was Nimai.

Sacimata: Don't be silly, He's only four months old!

2 nd Devotee: Maybe it was a demon!

[3r]2 nd Devotee: Or a ghost!

Sacimata: A ghost!

1 st Devotee: Don't worry, she's just trying to tease you. Even if it was a demon, the Brahmanas know special mantras to make them go away.

Sacimata: That's an excellent idea. I'll have Jagannatha Misra have them come over immediately!
(She returns to Nimai.)
Hush Nimai, You're safe. It's allright.

1 st Devotee: Let's chant Hare Krsna. He always stops crying when we chant:

Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare
Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare

Sacimata: There now, that's better! Would You like a sweet, my dear Child?

1 st Devotee: Don't spoil Him, Saci devi! You'll be sorry.

2 nd Devotee: Didn't you hear what the sage said at His birth? Nimai is the Supreme Lord Narayana, Himself!

Sacimata: Then, I'm sure it won't matter if He has another sweet!

1s1 st Devotee: Oh, allright, let me feed Him then!

(She takes plate of sweets from Saci devi.)

2 nd Devotee: No me!
d Devotee: I haven't given Him anything to eat all day!

3 rd Devotee: That's not fair; you fed Him yesterday!

2 nd Devotee: Just see what you have done! Now He's crying again!

1 st Devotee: Oh, Nimai, don't cry! Here, take this sweet.

2 nd Devotee: Quick, someone start chanting!

All: Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare
Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare

Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare
Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare
(Bhajan, lights dim, all exit.)

Scene Two

1 st Devotee: (Three devotees enter hurriedly) Saci devi!

Sacimata: Yes, I'm over here.

1 st Devotee: Did you hear about Nimai?

Sacimata: Nimai? What happened to Him? Is He allright?

1 st Devotee: Is He allright? You should ask about the poor Brahmanas He's been playing tricks on
What a rascal He is!

Sacimata: Oh, thank Heavens!

1 st Devotee: Thank Heavens He's playing tricks on the Brahmanas?

Sacimata: No, I didn' t mean that; I'm just happy that nothing has happened to my precious child, Nimai.

1s1 st Devotee: Oh, you can expect something to happen all right. My brother told me that Nimaipulled Keshava Pandit's legs right out from under him while he was standing in the Ganges River chanting his gayatri mantra, today.

Sacimata: No, not Keshava Pandit! He's always so serious!!

2 nd Devotee: And it takes him twice as long to chant gayatri as it does anyone else!

3 rd Devotee: Hush!

2 nd Devotee: Well, it's true. That must have been funny!

1 st Devotee: It was! My brother said that Keshava Pandita was so mad that his face looked just
like[a fish because his eyes got so big!!

All: (laughter)

Sacimata: What did he do?

1 st Devotee: What did who do?

Sacimata: Keshava Pandit. He must have ran after Nimai?

2 nd Devotee: No one ever catches Nimai. He's too fast.

1 st Devotee: Of course he tried to run after Nimai, but he didn't get very far. He was huffing and
puffing before he'd run even ten feet! You should have seen him!

2 nd Devotee: I wish I could have been there!

All: (laughter)

Sacimata: You girls should not speak so of your elders!

2 nd Devotee: Yes. Oh look, here's Rupa!

Sacimata: Hello Rupa. What brings you out here?

Rupa: I just wanted to drop off some mangoes from our garden.
(Rupa hands over a sack.)

Sacimata: How nice, thank you!

Rupa: Is Nimai here?

Sacimata: No, He's not back from bathing yet.

2 nd Devotee: You told me that you had to help your mother sew for the market on Sunday.

Rupa: Well, I do. Weren't you going to make butter, today?

2 nd Devotee: I did, I'm doing it I mean I'm almost done.

1 st Devotee: It's obvious that your son is like Cupid, Saci devi. He has captured all our hearts.

Rupa: Did you hear how Nimai stole Manu's offering, yesterday?

1st Devotee: I heard about it from my brother.

2 nd Devotee: I didn't hear about it at all, tell me.

Rupa: Manu had his eyes closed and Nimai crept up and grabbed the whole offering he was making - the laddus, the sweet rice, the garland - everything! Nimai even started to eat the sweets as He was running away.

2 nd Devotee: Did you ever hear of such a trick!

2 nd Devotee: Oh, that's not all. While Manu was chasing Him, Nimai kept yelling back, "You've called Me and I have come, why are you so angry?" And Nimai was laughing the whole time!

All: (laughter)

2 nd Devotee: I thought you didn't hear about it.

3 rd Devotee: Well, I may have heard part of it.

2 nd Devotee: He's so bad!

3 rd Devotee: Do you think He'll get a reaction for being so naughty?

1 st Devotee: You know, Saci devi, Nimai stays in the water until past two o'clock every day; that can't be good for His health.

2 nd Devotee: No, of course not.

Rupa: Saci Mata, your son has been behaving badly to us girls, lately when we go to bathe in the Ganges.

2 nd Devotee: You won't believe the mean tricks that He's been playing.

Sacimata: Oh, dear!

Rupa: Yesterday, we saw Him sneak up behind Chintamani and yell "HARI BOL!" right in her ear!

2 nd Devotee: He frightened her so that I thought she was going to faint!

Rupa: And that was after He took all the fruits and flowers we'd brought to the Ganges to use in our puja and threw them all over the banks!

2 nd Devotee: Who does Nimai think He is, a prince or something?

1 st Devotee: Actually, all these naughty pranks of His remind me of the pastimes of Gopal Krsna in Vrndavan.

Rupa: Saci devi, you really must discipline your child! He broke my Mother's butter pot again this week!

1 st Devotee: See? Just like Gopal!

Sacimata: Perhaps it was someone else.

Rupa: No, it was Nimai. I saw Him running behind our house.

Sacimata: I know He's mischievous and I have spoken to Him. I don't know why He does the
things He does, truly I don't.

Rupa: He should be punished.

1 st Devotee: He needs to be taught a lesson.
(Another devotee enters. Syama! I didn't expect you until later. Why are you dressed so funny?
Whose clothes do you have on?

Syama: I don't know.

1 st Devotee: You don't know whose clothes you're wearing?

Syama: Honestly, I don't. I just came back from bathing. Nimai switched all the clothes. We had
to put on whatever we could find. When we chastised Him He said that we had better be careful or
He would curse us to have old husbands with four co-wives.

2 nd Devotee: Oh, Saci devi, can Nimai really do that!?

3 rd Devotee: Four co-wives? Oh no!

1s1 st Devotee: He really has outdone Himself today.

Rupa: Well, Saci Mata, what are you going to do?

1 st Devotee: Mark my words, He'll become a dacoit of some kind if you're not careful!

Rupa: Some of the Brahmanas are really mad; my Pita said so. I heard that they are coming over to talk to Jagannath Misra, this very day.

Sacimata: You are right. Nimai must be taught a good lesson. I've been patient until now, but I see that He must be severely punished.
1 st Devotee: What will you do to Him?

\2 nd Devotee: You won't punish Him too hard will you?

3 rd Devotee: After all, He's just mischievous.

Sacimata: Yes, that's true. He would never really hurt anybody.

Syama: It was really funny when no could find their clothes! Keshava Pandit had to wrap a pink sari around himself! He looked so humorous!!

All: (laughter)

Rupa: Look, there is Keshava Pandit running by now!
(Keshava Pandit, wearing a pink sari, runs by. He looks very embarrassed.)

All: (laughter)

Rupa: Have you ever noticed how Nimai's eyes dance when He's being naughty?

All: Oh, yes!

2 nd Devotee: His smile is like sweet nectar!

All: Yes! Just like nectar!

2 nd Devotee: You won't hurt him, will you, Saci devi? I mean, boys will be boys

3 rd Devotee: Yes, don't be too hard on Him.

Rupa: Look, there's Nimai! He's coming down the road!

2 nd Devotee: Just see his innocent face! He couldn't possibly have done anything wrong!

Rupa: Let's go out and see Him!

2 nd Devotee: I thought you had to go back and help your Mata.

Rupa: I will, I will!

2 nd Devotee: You just came here to see Nimai!

Rupa: So did you!
2 nd Devotee: I never said I didn't.
(Nimai enters their company.)

Rupa: Nimai, I brought you some mangoes!

Syama: I've brought you some sweets. They have coconut in them; I just made them for you today!
(Nimai, Rupa and Syama move away from the others.)

2 nd Devotee: How my heart beats every time I see Nimai's face!

2 nd Devotee: I thought it was just mine that did that!

2 nd Devotee: Who is this boy who has captivated our minds so?

3 rd Devotee: He's such a rascal, but at every moment that I don't see Him, it feels like it's been a lifetime!

1 st Devotee: How fortunate we are that Mother Saci's beautiful golden Child graces our village with His pastimes!

2 nd Devotee: Look, there goes Keshava Pandit again!
(Keshava Pandit, wearing a pink sari, runs through again, looking embarrassed. Everyone laughs.)
(Bhajan.)